GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5730
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
WEEDING OUT OF CORRUPTION
M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission have expressed that the existing provisions in the Prevention of Corruption Act are too weak to weed out corruption from the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to strengthen provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act to book the guilty;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of other steps the Government propose to take to check corruption?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. VASUNDHARAJE)

(a),(b),(c)&(d):A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c)&(d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5730 ANSWER ON 25.04.2001.

(a),(b)&(c):The Central Vigilance Commissioner has not expressed the view that the existing provisions in the Prevention of Corruption Act are too weak to contain corruption though the need for enacting a separate legislation for forfeiture of property of corrupt public servants has been emphasised by him.

(d): The Government is fully alive to the need to eradicate corruption at all levels of public services. A three pronged strategy of Surveillance, Prevention and Punitive/Deterrent action is followed by the Government. Various Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings are responsible to ensure probity and integrity in their respective organisations. Recognising that an important aspect of this strategy is Preventive Vigilance, steps have been taken to ensure transparency in public administration and initiate measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizens` Charters, setting up of Facilitation Centres etc.The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up. The punitive actions being taken under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 duly supported by various rules governing the service conditions of public servants, also act as a deterrent against corruption. However, the drive against corruption in public services to check malpractices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. Besides, some of the recent major initiatives taken by the Government include introduction of Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 in Lok Sabha to confer statutory status upon the Commission and Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 to bring greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Govt. etc.